

Rockport Harbor Advisory Committee

Minutes —December 17, 2014

Rockport Public Library

Meeting Started: 6:01PM

Members Present: Chairman Skip Montello, Chris Murch, Fred Hillier, Larry Stepenuck (arrived at 6:40PM), Phil Crotty, Dana Jorgensson, Steve Fritch

Absent: Kevin Carrigan

Also Present: Harbormasters Scott Story and Rosemary Lesch; Bob Potts, Bob MacIsaac

Chairman Montello opened the meeting and noted a quorum was present. He asked Secretary Crotty to call for a motion to approve the November 19, 2014 minutes. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Hillier, seconded by Ms. Jorgensson, and all voted aye. The Chairmen mentioned the annual report for 2014 had been prepared and was at the Town Administrator's office. When approved, it will need to be posted on the website in January 2015.

The Chairman turned to the second item on the agenda and asked the Harbormasters for an update. HM Story reported that the Bearskin Neck project is moving, with the contractor continuing to stock stones at Granite Pier. The contractor is still waiting for pieces for the machine to place stones, and the barge will not arrive in the harbor until the project is underway. The stones are coming mostly from Peabody.

The Chairman then turned to the third item on the agenda, The Tool Company. He noted the recent Land Court decision adverse to the Tool Company, and the recent DEP decision against the Tool Company. Members had received a copy by e-mail. There was discussion about a prior site plan for the Tool Co. which had received a DEP permit, and whether that permit had lapsed or could the Tool Co. bring it back to life. The answer is unknown, as is what course the developer will take at this time. Mr. Murch noted that the HAC had submitted a position to the DEP on the current project but had not been mentioned in the DEP decision, which is unfortunate. Mr. Hillier brought up the federal legislative grant to the Tool Co. in the mid-1800's, and inquired how come that is not honored at this time. There was discussion about perhaps the Tool Co. now moving on to federal court to assert that position. There might be legal positions which cut out the rights of the Tool Co. over the 150 or so years.

The Chairman then turned to the last item on the agenda, review of the Town Bylaws relative to harbors and floats. A copy of the Town Bylaws was distributed to each member. Ms. Jorgensson said that she had gone over the bylaws carefully and there does not appear to be a compelling reason to change anything. There was consensus about that position among the members. Ms. Jorgensson suggested that an HAC workshop might be in order to provide a forum to commercial fishermen and other interested parties concerning the bylaws and other harbor matters. Mr. Murch mentioned the Town Harbor Plan and the fact that the HM's hold open sessions every Thursday night—which is a major outreach- and that maybe a copy of the relevant bylaws could

be put in with the mooring bills when they go out. Crotty pointed out that the HAC minutes are posted online for all to see.

Then Mr. Hillier brought up the issue of commercial fishermen losing out in the harbors. There are fewer and fewer fishing boats in Rockport harbors — and no party boats as there used to be. A discussion followed about the allocation of mooring spaces to commercial fishermen when a mooring became available. The question came up about fishermen having a special list for mornings, and if such is possible. The matter will be discussed next month. (The HM's had already departed the meeting at the time of this discussion.)

Crotty mentioned that the Granite Pier extension study is moving along. The DPW has contacted the consultant and is just waiting for confirmation that the CPC funds in the amount of \$5,500 is available. It was mentioned that if the GPE project becomes reality, there will be many more moorings available.

Crotty also mentioned that the Granite pier Committee is planning to apply to the CPC for funds for a staircase at Granite Pier from the upper level down to the lower level. The members agreed that is a good idea. The Chairman suggested a motion in support, and Crotty proposed the following motion:

Motion by the Rockport Harbor Advisory Committee to support the application of the Rockport Granite Pier Committee to the Rockport CPC for funding for a staircase at Granite Pier from the upper level down to the lower level.

Motion made by: Mr. Fritch

Seconded by: Mr. Murch

All Ayes; no Nays

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There being no further business, Chairman Montello mentioned the next meeting will be January 28, 2015. The annual election of officers will take place.

Motion to adjourn made at 6:45 PM. Motion by Chairman Montello; seconded by Mr. Murch. All Ayes.